



Pastor as Prophet, Priest and King—Part 2

by Rev. Thomas Chryst

The Office of the Ministry as representative of Christ

Without re-establishing everything Lutherans teach about the Office of the Holy Ministry, we can first approach its exercise of the three-fold office by understanding that the Ministry is derived from Christ's own office(s). The 1981 CTCR document, *"The Ministry - Offices, Procedures and Nomenclature"* explains:

2. The office of the public ministry is grounded in the ministry of Christ and is an extension of the apostolate established by Him.

The office of the public ministry of the church is rooted and grounded in the ministry of Christ. He was the Suffering Servant, the God-man, who not only taught about God's love but completely satisfied the demands of God's holy Law by vicariously living a perfect life and dying a sacrificial death for our transgressions of God's Law. His priestly, prophetic, and royal actions are the essential content and power of the ministry of the church. God not only provided salvation and declared the whole world just for the sake of Christ, but He also provided the means of grace and the ministry of the Word and sacrament "to offer and apply to us this treasure of salvation" (LC II, 38).

Similarly, Jesus says, "he who receives you, receives me". Also our liturgy confesses this connection when the pastor absolves, "in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ..." The pastor is a "little Christ" to his congregation, and in accord with his office, exercises rightful authority. But the authority of Christ is always used to serve others, not self. It is even the call to die for the sheep, if needed.

With all this in mind, let us consider:

The Pastor as Prophet – Perhaps the Old Testament office most easily aligned with the pastor, for its concern to speak the Word of God is the same. While an Old Testament prophet received that Word in "many and various ways", we constrain ourselves to the canonical books of the Bible. But in his preaching, the faithful, prophetic pastor proclaims that word he is given – for the present and the future – and points always to the ultimate prophet, even the Living Word, himself, Jesus Christ.

The pastor is the under-prophet of the Ultimate Prophet, and always subjects his word to the Living Word.

The Pastor as Priest - "strong intercessors, they" they hymn declares. As priest, the pastor speaks the prayers of the people in representative fashion during the public services, in the liturgy. In fact, any time the pastor faces the altar, back to the congregation, it is not to be rude – but likely to express the priestly character of his actions at that point - representing you to God.

Inside this Issue:

Church Council Corner/Christ Academy	4
Christ Academy	6
Stewardship/Angel Tree	8
Fall Festival /Sunday School	10
Advent Sermon Series	12

*That you may believe that Jesus is the Christ,
the Son of God, and that by believing
you may have life in His name. —John 20:31*

But his intercession does not stop there, as the faithful pastor prays for his sheep in all their troubles and circumstances. There's no indication in Scripture that the prayers of a pastor have any more weight than of the laity (though, “the prayer of a righteous man has great effect”). A pastor must be careful not to play in to this cultural misnomer. But as a man of God called to care for a flock, it only makes sense that he would pay particular attention to prayer on their behalf, whether they know it or not.

And while he cannot personally stand in their place, *coram deo*, for salvation – he does sacrifice worldly comforts to bring the sheep to the great High Priest, who offered Himself on the cross. Here, perhaps, we see the greatest fulfillment of priestliness, a model we do well to reflect in our showing of love to the people in our flock.

The pastor is the under-priest of the Great High Priest, of the Order of Melchizedek.

The Pastor as King – Yes, a pastor is a king. But like Christ, whose kingdom is not of this world. Following Christ, who taught that only the rulers of this world “lord it over” others, but, “not so with you!”. So putting aside our cautions about misused kingly authority, *how* is a pastor a king?

He handles the law, administering it. He speaks a word that curbs, shows sin, and rules. In his preaching, he points to that which God expects of us, and demands of us. Of course, we fail. And this may incite in us rebellion against the law-giver, killing the messenger because the message so hurts. But no matter. Kings have a solemn duty to uphold the law, and so will a faithful pastor.

But he will also protect the people. He will fight for them. He will identify the enemy (or enemies) and lead the charge. Our enemies are not flesh and blood, but the Devil the world, and our own sinful nature. Our defenses are given only by God (Ephesians 6). The breastplate of righteousness, the shield of faith, the helmet of salvation, etc.

And our only offensive weapon is the sword of his word. As a king, the pastor wields the sword – not of the government to punish wrongdoers (Romans 13), but the sword of the spirit, which is the word of God. It is that sword which issues from the mouth of Christ (Revelation 1). It is the Gospel, the power of God for salvation.

The pastor as king employs both Law and Gospel, in the pulpit, and in his dealings with those of the Kingdom. The pastor is an under-king of the King of Kings, and serves all in accord with His purposes.

Finally, just as with Christ, there is overlap and complementary function in the three offices, so too, it is with the pastor. But that is because the office of pastor is derived from the office of Christ, as a whole, not in three separate parts. These are simply a framework or a lens by which to view what Christ does in Himself, and how He serves His people through the Office He establishes.

Royal Priesthood?

Luther himself emphasized the Royal (kingly) Priesthood of all believers. Unfortunately this has often been used as a club over against the Holy Office. But that's not fair to either Luther or Holy Scripture.

The reality and importance of the Priesthood of All Believers does not negate the reality and importance of the Office of the Holy Ministry.

I would submit that within each Christian's vocation, he too has kingly, priestly, and even prophetic opportunities. But the chief distinction is that the pastor is called to exercise his authority publicly, on behalf of all. The individual Christian operates within the private realm, according to his own calling or station.

You may have occasion to witness (prophetic), or to protect another (kingly). Certainly, the priestly Christian intercedes for others- praying at all times for those in authority, for the sick, for any who are in need, even for unbelievers. In all these things, the same Christ who works through the Public Office works in the lives of his people.

For example, the Christian parent is prophet, priest and king to his child. The Christian

husband is the same to his wife. Even as friends and neighbors we can find these Christ-like functions peeking through as we serve others in various ways.

Christ the Apostle/Pastor as Apostle

One final connected idea – brought about by verse 5 of our hymn, apostleship. Here we can find another useful office for understanding Christ, his pastors, and his people. While the narrow definition of “apostle” includes those specifically commissioned by Jesus (the 12, plus St. Paul), still there is an apostolic character to the Office of Pastor. The word, “apostle”, meaning, “sent one”, really should point us first of all to Christ – who was “sent” by the Father on his mission of redemption. Likewise the Holy Spirit is “sent” by the Father and Son according to his purposes, but especially to testify to Christ. The 12 apostles were sent, not only at the Great Commission, but also with authority to preach and cast out demons during Jesus' public ministry. In fact, the Christian church, as a whole, is “apostolic”, not only in its adherence to the teaching of the apostles, but also in that we are “sent” to the world with the Gospel.

So, too, the pastor is apostolic. He is sent. He is sent by God, by the Holy Spirit, by means of the external call of the congregation, to be pastor in a certain place. He is sent, and given an authority that is not his own, but belongs to Christ (as does all authority). He is sent to a certain people, a certain congregation, particularly. And in his sent-ness there is comfort for him, that his labor is not in vain. And in his sent-ness there is comfort for his sheep, that they receive Him who sent him.

Jesus Christ, our prophet, priest, and king – now rules from heaven, intercedes for us before God, and yet still proclaims His word to the lost world He once died to save. Through His pastors, He publicly exercises these same functions, for the good of His people. Lutherans need not shun this way of describing the work of God in our midst, for through the prism of these biblical offices, we gain greater appreciation of Christ who does all things well, and for us, and of the ministers he sends to stand in his stead. And rejoicing in the Gospel, give thanks to Him for these, among so many other good gifts.



All Saints Sunday

November 3rd, 2019

On Sunday, November 3rd we will remember those saints that have entered their eternal rest

Eileen Blasé

Rev. Robert Dibell

Frances Holden

Mildred Turley

Gerhardt Schmidt, Sr.

The Messiah Church Council met on October 23rd from 7:00 pm to 9:30 pm. The MLC Voter's Assembly met on Sunday, October 27th. These notes are a summary of both meetings.

Here are some highlights:

Pastor's Report: Pastor Chryst notes that the new staff is settled in. Vicki Main and Carol Hibbs are leaving in the new year. New project initiated to deal with "inactive members". Generally this project will begin with a contact with every member who has not attended for 3 months. Everyone please help bring inactive members back!

Treasurer: The 1st qtr reported a combined loss of \$690.00

Our cash and savings on hand, less the Heidorn bequest total \$231,102.70
Total Internal Debt (\$197,371.69)
Heidorn bequest in savings and investments total **\$396,447.00**

Please contact Herbert Herrmann with any questions!

Elders: Deaconess Buhler has begun a program to facilitate transportation of homebound members to dialysis service using a Lyft Account.

Please contact Ray Main with questions.

Evangelism: Swaddling Clothes was used by 29 families in October. Barbara Brewer is leading our Angel Tree project. We need people who can deliver the Angel Tree gifts.

Please contact Bruce Dana with questions.

Trustees: Facilities update continues. Next project is replacing the flooring in the church office. Scheduled on Nov 14-15.

Please contact Paul Lara with questions!

Stewardship: The Financial Peace University course is 2/3rds complete.

Please contact Bill Stone with questions.

School Board: Enrollment is unchanged at 84 students total. Staff evaluations are underway. The

Head of School Search Committee is meeting monthly. Clay Brandt notes that MLCA Trunk or Treat event was very well attended including non-member families. Over 90% of school families attended. The Ninja Course and Chessboard are in work. Escalante Concrete is donating labor and concrete for this work totaling over \$6,000.

Please contact Clay Brandt with questions.

Christian Education: Pastor Chryst reported as acting Chairman: Program scheduled for Christmas. Program to do community service by teaming with Holy Shepherd to deliver snacks in areas of need.

Jason Allen appointed the following to the nominating committee: Chris Aguilar, Jimmy Baker, Wayne Brown, Randy Burke, Steve Latham, Wayne McGrath, Pastor Chryst

Several motions were passed in New Business at the Voter's Assembly.

New Business

Motion by Herbert Herrmann that the Voters Assembly amend the budget for youth in the amount of \$3000 for this need, and any unused monies be carried over into FY20/21

Motion by Bill Stone that the Heidorn Bequest (\$396k) be allocated in the following manner:
15% to be allocated to external missions to be determined at a later date by the Voter's Assembly
35% to be allocated for major facilities upgrade or maintenance to be determined at a later date by the Voter's Assembly
50% to be retained in income producing investments. The proceeds will be used to increase our payoff of the 3rd mortgage loan (originally the Line of Credit from 2014).

Motion by Bill Brandt to thank the anonymous donor for their generous gift to the Organ Fund and to thank Escalante Concrete for their generous donation of concrete and labor for the Ninja Course.

Next Council Meeting is November 20th.



**MLCA will have their 3rd Annual
Stop-N-Shop on
Tuesday, December 3rd
More details to come!!**

**SAVE
THE
DATE**

Using online posts from Cambria Stame (CUI), Ethan Gillespie (CUW), and Christ Academy (FaceBook)



Classes are taught by CTSFW faculty, ordained staff, and guest speakers; Timothy School participants and Phoebe School participants sometimes take these together, but more often attend separate classes, broken down along vocational lines. The details of each day change over the course of two weeks (the schedule loosens up on weekends and there's some off-campus service projects and activities that also break the pattern), but the overarching order remains the same: intense learning capped off by a few hours of fun each night, with each day always shaped and focused around worship in Kramer Chapel. It's an intensive couple of weeks for these young men and women, but already by the third day one of the things that marks this group is the laughter and camaraderie they share with each other. It's an absolute joy to have them with us on campus.



Christ Academy classes included but were not limited to the following areas of study: **The Augsburg Confession** w/ Dr. Mayes, **The Gospel of Matthew** w/ Dr. Geischen, **History of the Reformation** w/ Dr. Burfiend, **Prayer** w/ Rev. Wietfeldt, **Christology** w/ Dr. Grobien, **Pastoral Care** w/ Dr. Zieroth, **The Former Prophets** w/ Dr. Tietz, **Christian Leadership** w/ Rev. Wietfeldt, **Acts, Revelation, Time Management, & Echo** w/ Rev. Fisk, **Serving God's Kingdom as a Ministry Team** w/ Deac. Jaseph and Vicor Domenichelli, **How Do Pastors and Deaconesses Work Together?** w/ Deac. [Terkula](#) and Rev. Mommens, **Intercity Missions** w/ Dr. Pulse, **Diakonia** w/ Deaconess Rast, and **Deaf Ministry** with Deaconess Sias.

Six classes were presented by college representatives from six of our ten Concordia Universities: **Luther's Reform of the Mass** by Dr. Lee of Chicago; **Jesus and the Samaritan Woman** by Dr. Mudge of Wisconsin; **Jesus, the Paralytic, and the House Where it Took Place** by Nebraska; **Understanding Mission: Early History of The Ethiopian Church Mekana Yesus** by a Dr. Deressa of St. Paul; **Baptism-Not our Work, But by God's Hand** by Rev. Brown of Texas; and **Easier Life, or Easter Life?** by Dr. Blanko of Ann Arbor.

<https://www.facebook.com/christacademyctsfw>; excerpt from 6/20/19

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100010716284424>; Ethan Gillespie 7/8/19



I, Head Proctor Cambria, will give you a sketch of what a regular day in the life of a Phoebe Academy student is like. At the early hour of 6:30 am, they are already socializing with their classmates. At 7:00, the bells of Kramer Chapel beckon them to Morning Prayer. It's on to breakfast for them and morning staff meetings for the proctors. Exegetical theology

class occupies the next hour, and then it's off to choir rehearsal and chapel with the seminary community.

The next item on the docket is Liturgics, a class that turned out to be so interesting that the students got through 5% of the material and devoted the other 95% to having their questions on communion practices answered by Pastor Wietfeldt, Director of Christ Academy. Growling stomachs indicate that lunch is blissfully right around the corner, and then the students become church historians for an hour as they delve into everything Reformation. If that isn't dream enough, the next two classes cover mercy work- including topics such as inner-city mission work, LCMS Life Ministry, and service to the imprisoned.

Between classes, students enjoyed break time. Many students asked to stay after class and take Pastor Wietfeldt up on his "Liturgical Show and Tell" offer, in which he brought his Lectionaries, Agenda, and other pastoral care books for the students to explore. The others begged to go to the campus bookstore, where they practiced self-control surveying theological tomes. Afterwards, we enjoy Afternoon Prayer and dinner.

Announcement time, known affectionately as All Academy, follows dinner. This includes but is not limited to: notifications about what seminary shirt to wear on the next day's service project, distribution of Phoebe News, issuance of vitamin C tablets and cough drops in order to allay the sick, reminders to be on time for chapel, and instructions to not spend too much time giggling with that certain Timothy School student when one should be singing in rehearsal.

Compline bookends our Phoebe Student's day, after which she tumbles into bed and falls fast asleep... just kidding. These are high schoolers. Why go to bed early when one can stay up late and play camp clapping games with each other?

<https://camincam.com/2019/07/12/cam-at-christ-academy/>; Cambria Stame's Blog

How do Deaconesses and Pastors work together?



A deaconess is a theologically trained woman who serves alongside the pastor to teach the Christian faith and perform acts of mercy in order to teach the faithful, reach the lost, and care for all. – Christ Academy FB



Dr. Bushur (front of class) is the Director of the Deaconess Program and expert on Theological Anthropology. He's so quotable that many Phoebe students complained of cramped hands and dwindling notebook space after attending his class. -Cambria



Lutheran Friends of the Deaf

Deaconess Sias presented to a wonderful group of young women about Deaf ministry and taught them the Lord's Prayer in sign language at the end of the presentation.

-Christ Academy FB



The final 2019 Christ Academy class ended with Guest Speaker Rev. Jonathan Fisk teaching a course on Revelation." –Christ Academy FB



StewardCAST

A monthly e-newsletter of LCMS Stewardship Ministry

lcms.org/stewardship

As any golfer knows, a golf swing is really controlled by the way you grip the club. A defective grip can make hitting consistent shots almost impossible. Hold the club too loosely and it goes flying down the fairway. Hold it too tightly and, while it may remain in the hand, there will be lost distance and an inconsistent strike. The grip has to be just right if the player is going to be consistent from tee to green.

It is just as critical that the faithful steward has a “just-right” grip when it comes to what the Lord of the Universe has entrusted for stewardship. If his grip is too loose, then what he receives from the Lord he will steward faithlessly. If his grip on what is entrusted by the Lord is too tight, then the devastating consequence of the claim of ownership will begin to creep into the picture. Neither is a good thing!

Holding too tight

The stewardship grip that is too tight can be seen in Genesis 3. From the moment of the Lord’s powerful and gracious creative conversation, the first stewards, Adam and Eve, had just the right grip on creation. The Lord placed all of the plants in the garden at their disposal for food. In the position of reception, their hands welcomed every gift as a treasure from the Lord. The Lord provided for His precious

stewards, who received with open hands.

But then their grip changed. A slithering serpent, that ancient deceiver, caused those stewards to take their eyes off of their hands which were filled with every good and perfect gift from their Creator God. Their focus was moved to that one tree that was set apart and forbidden. An entire garden created to provide for them wasn’t enough. They believed the lie. And their grip changed.

“So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate” (Gen. 3:6) Eve looked. Eve thought. Then Eve took. At that very moment, Eve’s hands (and Adam’s too) changed from the open, receiving hands of a faithful steward to the tight, grasping hands of a thief. She seized and shared, she coveted and claimed that which belonged to another. *(Continued next page)*



... the conduit of
God's goodness
shares the gifts and
the joy that comes
with them freely
and joyously!



A Program of Prison Fellowship

This Christmas, millions of children will spend the holiday missing a parent that is in prison. The Angel Tree Program seeks to reconcile prisoners and their families to God and to each other through the delivery of Christmas gifts and the Gospel message.

Look for the Angel Tree in the Narthex soon and help Messiah kick off the holiday season by shopping for an Angel on the tree.

The Board of Stewardship is looking for a few volunteers to help deliver the donations received. Barbara Brewer and Bruce Dana will be coordinating the Angel Tree. Please let them know if you would be interested in helping out.

Thank you!

Eve's taking—her overly tight, sinful grip—caused great problems. Relationships with God, each other and the creation were shattered. Life as it had been up to that point ended and death began. Man's grip went from the open, palm up position of a receiving steward to the strong grip of an idolatrously closed-fisted thief-owner. From that point forward, it would be impossible for these stewards to faithfully serve the Lord. They only wanted to serve themselves.

Adjusting our grip

This grip problem is a constant in the life of a Christian steward. The steward knows that the Lord has entrusted much to our stewardship. These gifts are to be held with a "just-right" grip. This "just-right" grip holds these gifts in such a way that the neighbor is served and the Lord is glorified. But far too often, the steward today grips these gifts too tightly. This causes stinginess in giving and heartlessness toward the neighbor, and hinders the work of the Gospel in the community and the world. It is impossible to be a faithful steward when the gifts from the Lord are gripped too tightly.

Consider the steward as a conduit. The Lord bestows gifts. There is a superabundance of gifts poured out on the Lord's people on a daily basis. It is the task of the steward to receive these gifts to be distributed to those

around them for the glory of God. These gifts are given not to be the possession of the steward, but to be distributed to the neighbor. When the steward has a closed fist, the flow of the blessings for the sake of others is constricted and even blocked completely. But when the grip of the steward is "just right", the conduit of God's goodness shares the gifts and the joy that comes with them freely and joyously! With just the right grip, the steward can indeed freely and joyously manage all of life and life's resources for God's purposes. This not a hands-off proposition. The grip of the steward needs to be intentional. Gripping the gifts of God in such a manner that they are seen as personal possessions makes faithfulness nearly impossible.

This takes practice. Practice is not done on the range. The practice comes when the steward is in close proximity to the Master. This proximity is located where the Gospel is at work. It takes place in the Lord's House and at the master's Table. The more time the steward spends with the master teacher, the easier it becomes to reflect the heart and the touch of the Master. As the Lord's "just-right" grip is at work on the life and heart of the steward through His Word, the steward's grip on his task becomes "just right" by grace.



Thanksgiving Eve Service

Wednesday
November 27

7:00 pm

Fall Festival and Trunk or Treat

by Alison Smith—Interim Principal

MLCA's Family Fall Festival was a success! Families enjoyed a trunk-or-treat, games, face-painting, a balloon artist, and a pumpkin patch. Thank you to all who participated and volunteered their time.



Community Storehouse Donations

by Jinel Munoz

Messiah Lutheran Church and Messiah Lutheran Classical Academy support the Community Store House of Keller's food pantry.

In November, during the week of the 11th through the 15th, we will be collecting food items for Thanksgiving meal baskets. There is a food item focus for each of the days.

Monday—**Canned Soup**
Tuesday—**Peanut Butter or Jelly**
Wednesday—**Canned Vegetables**
Thursday—**Canned Fruit**
Friday—**Boxed dinner mix/pasta or rice**

The Community Storehouse will take the donations and make baskets to give to families in need for their Thanksgiving meals.

Please consider donating any of these items and placing them in the baskets outside of the Sanctuary.



Thank you for your continued support!



Save the Date!!!

Messiah Lutheran Church
Monday, December 2, 2019
Time 6:30-9:30pm

This adult women's dessert social helps raise funds to defray the cost of tuition for high school students to attend Christ Academy during the summer. If you are interested in hosting a table at this year's event contact **Deaconess Buhler** for your Hostess Packet!

Tickets will go on sale this month!!

For more information, please see this year's coordinators:
Joan Burk & Deaconess Pamela Buhler

Sunday School Happenings

by Elaine Hall—*Sunday School Superintendent*

Christian Education Sunday on August 25 was the kickoff for the school year Sunday School Program. The readings, hymns, and sermon focused on God's directives to bring and teach the children.

Things are going well. The responsibilities for the Parents and 2's and 3's Class are being shared month by month by Bridget Palmer, Julie Rivera, Carie King, and Alicia Snyder. Karen Dana has the 4's, 5's, and Kindergarten class. Cathy Latham and Joy Aguilar are sharing the teaching of the First and Second Grade Class. Melissa Brooke and Meredith Sifford rotate in the Third and Fourth Grade Class. Valerie Serna handles the Fifth Grade Class. John Sweet is teaching First Year Confirmation with the Sixth Graders while Lindsay Umayam and Eric Weber instruct the Seventh and Eighth Grade Class. Jimmy Baker continues to teach the High School group while Buckley Buhler fills in to help in Jimmy's absence. All of these teachers are doing a superb job, and they are greatly appreciated.

The new materials from Concordia Publishing House that are being used in Parents and 2's and 3's through Fifth Grade are entitled Enduring Faith. John Sweet is teaching Bible History in the First Year Confirmation Class. So far, the Seventh and Eighth Grade Class has continued the study from Pax Domini that was begun over the summer.

Since we are past Reformation Sunday, the end of the church year and the Advent and Christmas seasons are close behind. The Sunday School Christmas Program is scheduled for **December 8** during the Sunday School/Bible Class hour. Practice will be held on **Saturday, December 7**. The exact time will be announced soon.

Then the New Year for the world arrives. There are plans being made to have service programs and social activities for the Sunday School children at the beginning of January. More on that soon, as well.

Thank you to everyone who is bringing their children and/or grandchildren to Sunday School. These are special little and not so little people who are friends, learning the Bible, and enjoying God's love. All are welcome. We still have room.





Messiah Lutheran Church & School
The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod

1308 Whitley Rd. Keller, TX 76248

Church Office: (817) 431-2345

Academy Office: (817) 431-5486

Sunday Worship: 8:00 a.m. & 10:45 a.m.

Sunday School & Adult Bible Class: 9:30 a.m.

Rev. Thomas Chryst, Pastor

www.messiahkeller.org

The Mothers of Jesus

Advent is a common season in which to focus on upon the promises of old, the days and years of waiting, and upon the forbearers and ancestors of the Christ in the Old Testament. This year, for our Wednesday evening series, we will consider some of the women of Jesus' own lineage. Each week we'll examine two from our Lord's family tree whose stories help prepare us to receive the Babe of Bethlehem, the long-expected Jesus.

Eve and Sarah – Mothers of Promise

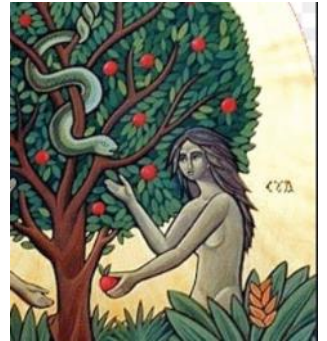
Genesis 3:13-21 and 18:9-15

Rahab and Ruth – Mothers from the Nations

Joshua 2:1-22 and Ruth 1:1-18

Bathsheba and Mary – Mothers of the Son of David

2 Samuel 11:1-5; 26-27 and Luke 1:26-38



As Eve, our primal mother,
Despite her fateful deed,
Who knew the lying serpent,
Would be crushed by her Seed,
May we so trust Your promise,
And see Your will be done,
That we like all Eve's children,
May be saved by Your Son.

We sing of laughing Sarah,
Who when she overheard,
The promise of an offspring,
Found the idea absurd.
May we so keenly listen,
And by your word employ,
Our faith to grasp the promise,
And turn our doubt to joy.

Like Jericho's dear Rahab,
Who harbored Jewish spies,
Who cast her lot with Israel,
And chose the victor's side.
Protect us as your people,
Though we were once in sin;
Preserve us from destruction,
In Christ, made pure within.

Dear Ruth departed Moab,
But not Naomi's side,
Her false gods now discarded,
Her old life left behind.
Lord, also in our families,
Preserve and spread Your Word,
That through our love and union,
Your voice may e'er be heard.



Bathsheba's sin with David,
A scandal deep and sore,
Adult'ry, lies and murder,
And yet a son she bore.
God send the Son of David,
In spite of all our sin,
That with our sins forgiven,
We may be saved in Him.

We sing of Mary, mother,
Fair maiden, full of grace.
She bore the Christ, our brother,
Who came to save our race.
May we, with her, surrender
Ourselves to Your command
And lay upon Your altar
Our gifts of heart and hand.

